

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A network system connected with multiple master devices, comprising:

a plurality of slave devices connected to a network that transmit and receive data through the network;

a master device configured to receive a control command and to output state information in response to the control command to control the plurality of slave devices; and

a network manager configured to generate the control command and to automatically search for a unique address associated with the master device or, when the search is unsuccessful, assign a network specific address to the master device to connect install the master device to the network when the master device is newly connected to the network.

2. (Previously Presented) The network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the network manager comprises:

a master-device discriminator that determines whether the master device is newly connected to the network and that determines whether a unique address is associated with the master device;

a search packet transmitter that generates a search packet for searching for the unique address associated with the master device and that transmits the generated search packet to the master device; and

an address notifier that transmits the unique address of the master device to a plurality of home appliances connected to the network.

3. (Previously Presented) The network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the address notifier comprises:

a plug-in notifier that notifies the plurality of home appliances of the unique address of the master device when the unique address is searched and is found for the master device; and

a specific address notifier that automatically generates a specific address when the search of the unique address is not successful and transmits a specific address notification packet for the notification of the generated specific address to the plurality of home appliances.

4. (Previously Presented) The network system as set forth in claim 3, wherein the specific address notifier automatically generates a specific address when a slave device is additionally connected to the network and transmits a specific address notification packet for the notification of the generated specific address to the master device.

5. (Previously Presented) The network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the network manager further comprises:

a counter connected to the search packet transmitter that counts the number of attempts to search for the unique address associated with the master device.

6. (Previously Presented) The network system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the counter comprises:

a determinator that determines when the search of the unique address corresponding to the master device is unsuccessful, and that further determines when the number of attempted searches exceed a predetermined number of searches; and

a specific address requestor that outputs a control signal to request the specific address notifier to automatically generate a specific address when the address search is determined by the determinator to be unsuccessful.

7. (Currently amended) The network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the network manager further comprises:

a data packet transmitter that generates a data packet containing state information of an existing master device and the plurality of slave devices connected to the network and transmits the generated data packet to the master device and the existing master device, when the master device is newly connected to the network.

8. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a network system connected with at least one master device, the method comprising:

connecting a new master device to a network with which a plurality of slave devices are connected;

searching for a unique address associated with the master device; and

notifying a plurality of home appliances connected to the network that the master device comprising the unique address has been appropriately connected to the network.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein notifying further

comprises:

repeating a search of the unique address associated with the master device; and
automatically generating a specific address and assigning the generated specific address to the master device when the search of the unique address is unsuccessful.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a network system connected with at least one master device, the method comprising:

connecting a home appliance to a network with which a plurality of slave devices and an existing master device have been connected;

notifying at least one of the plurality of slave devices that the home appliance has been connected to the network by transmitting a unique address assigned to the home appliance to the at least one of the plurality of slave devices;

determining whether the home appliance is a master device and transmitting, to the home appliance, a data packet containing state information of at least one of the plurality of slave devices when it is determined that the home appliance is the master device; and

transmitting the data packet to the existing master device when the existing master device is used along with the master device.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein determining further comprises:

notifying an additionally connected slave device of the unique address of the master device when the connected slave device is connected to the network.